

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

DODE-00 NSC-05 OES-06 /108 W
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R 301010Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1517

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 3886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND NPT ADHERENCE

REF: STATE 181653

1. DCM AND ECON COUNSELOR CALLED JULY 26 ON ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY CHOUDHURY TO WELCOME BDG INTEREST IN ACCEDING TO NPT, AND TO INFORM HIM THAT US WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS ENTERING INTO NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT TO PERMIT US COMPANY SELL RESEARCH REACTOR AND FUEL TO BANGLADESH.

2. ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, WHO HEADS MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS SECTION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND REAZ RAHMAN, OFFICER IN THAT SECTION, TRACED THE HISTORY OF BDG CONSIDERATION OF ADHERING TO MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND THE PROCEDURAL CONSTRAINTS ON SUCH ADHERENCE.

3. THE FORM AND MANNER OF BANGLADESH ADHERENCE TO ALL SUCH TREATIES TO WHICH PAKISTAN HAD ACCEDED (BEFORE INDEPENDENCE OF BANGLADESH) HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITHIN THE BDG FOR SEVERAL YEARS. TO DATE BANGLADESH HAD
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NOT ADHERED TO ANY SUCH TREATIES, EXCEPT THOSE RELATING

TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND AFFILIATED BODIES. THE BDG WAS NOT YET A PARTY TO THE NUMEROUS MULTILATERAL CONVENTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, NARCOTICS, AND SO ON, HE SAID. THE CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT IN 1975 HAD DELAYED FURTHER A DECISION ON THESE QUESTIONS.

4. AT THE UN IN 1975, THE BANGLADESH DELEGATE HAD, CHOUDHURY SAID, INDICATED THAT THE BDG WAS "POSITIVELY INCLINED" TOWARD ADHERING TO THENPT. DR. INNAS ALI, CHAIRMAN, BANGLADESH ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, HAD BEEN "MORE POSITIVE" AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE IAEA.

5. CHOUDHURY THEN REFERRED TO AN ARTICLE IN THE APRIL 1975 ISSUE OF THE BRITISH CHATHAM HOUSE JOURNAL "INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS," WHICH NOTED THAT FOR MANY LDCS THE NPT APPEARED AN INSTRUMENT OF SUPERPOWER DOMINATION. THE BDG, CHOUDHURY SAID, HAD NO MEANS OF BECOMING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE, AND CONVEIVABLY MIGHT NEED SOME INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEE OF PROTECTION AGAINST THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WITHOUT SUCH A GUARANTEE, HE SEEMED LESS THAN CERTAIN THAT THE NPT WOULD IN FACT PROVIDE INCREASED SECURITY FOR BANGLADESH.

6. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WOULD INFORM THE RELEVANT OFFICES OF THIS APPROACH, BUT STOPPED SHORT OF STATING DEFINITELY THAT BDG WOULD BECOME A PARTY TO THE NPT.
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